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California Dreaming (1979 film)

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California Dreaming is a 1979 American comedy-drama film starring Glynnis O'Connor, Dennis Christopher, Seymour Cassel and Tanya Roberts and directed by John D. Hancock.[2][3]

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California Dreaming	
Directed by	John D. Hancock
Produced by	Christian Whittaker
Written by	Ned Wynn
Starring	Glynnis O'Connor Dennis Christopher Seymour Cassel Tanya Roberts
Music by	Fred Karlin
Cinematography	Bobby Byrne
Edited by	Herb Dow Roy Peterson
Distributed by	American International Pictures
Release date	March 16, 1979
Running time	92 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English
Box office	$2 million (US rentals)[1]

Plot [edit source]

A young man named T.T. moves from Chicago to California for the summer. He quickly becomes adapted to the new pace of beach life, learning several lessons along the way.

Production [edit source]

California Dreaming, a production of American International Pictures (AIP), could be considered a latter-day exemplar of the beach-party film genre that AIP pioneered in the 1960s. However, the film's producer Lou Arkoff, the son of AIP founder Samuel Z. Arkoff, stated a desire to "move [AIP] toward more serious, insightful and creative projects" rather than the exploitation films favored by his father, saying specifically of *California Dreaming*: "My concern is that this doesn't become 'Beach Blanket Bingo'."[4]

Filming for *California Dreaming* began on October 17, 1977 at Santa Monica State Beach, the film's purported setting. However, most of the movie's footage would be shot at Pismo Beach, with Avila Beach also serving as a locale.

The script written by Ned Wynn was entitled *State Beach*, which was the film's working title (with *Golden State* mentioned as a possible alternative). Director John D. Hancock wanted to change the title to *California Dreaming*,[5] and the new title was confirmed in December 1977. Permission for the title was obtained from the copyright holders of the song "California Dreamin'", though the film's storyline has no immediate parallels with the song's lyrics. The film's poster features the slogan "A state somewhere between fantasy and reality" under the title.[4]

Filming was completed in December 1978. The film's budget was $2 million.[6]

Release [edit source]

The planned July 1978 release of *California Dreaming* was postponed because of a perceived glut of similarly themed movies set for release that summer (most prominently *Big Wednesday*). A rescheduled October 1978 was also canceled.[7] The film finally premiered with a December 27-January 1 engagement at a Yuma, Arizona theater; it was to AIP's advantage for taxation purposes to release the film before the end of 1978.[8]

California Dreaming was given a limited release on March 16, 1979, and the release was expanded in the following two months. The release schedule was planned to coincide with the release of the film's soundtrack album, distributed by Casablanca Records. The version of "California Dreamin'" recorded by America that plays during *California Dreaming*'s closing credits was issued as a single, spending eight weeks in the *Billboard* Hot 100 and peaking at #56.[9]

Cast [edit source]

- Glynnis O'Connor as Corky
- Seymour Cassel as Duke
- Dennis Christopher as T.T.
- Dorothy Tristan as Faye
- Tanya Roberts as Stephanie
- John Calvin as Rick
- Todd Susman as Jordy
- Alice Playten as Corrine

References [edit source]

1. ^ THE BIG THUDS OF 1979--FILMS THAT FLOPPED, BADLY Epstein, Andrew. Los Angeles Times 27 Apr 1980: o6.
2. ^ Clarke Fountain (2008). "California Dreaming". Movies & TV Dept. *The New York Times*. Baseline & All Movie Guide. Archived from the original on 2008-01-28.
3. ^ "California Dreaming". *TV Guide*.
4. ^ a b Los Angeles Times "Riding the Waves of California Dreaming" 11 December 1977 p. 66
5. ^ *Pittsburgh Post Gazetter* 6 April 1978 "Hancock's 'California Dreaming' After Playhouse & Jaws 2" by George Anderson p.12
6. ^ http://catalog.afi.com/Catalog/MovieDetails/56231
7. ^ San Bernardino County Sun 20 February 1979 p. 20
8. ^ Tax Court Memorandum Decisions, Vol 53 p. 951
9. ^ http://www.americanradiohistory.com/hd2/IDX-Business/Music/Archive-Billboard-IDX/IDX/70s/1979/Billboard%201979-03-31-OCR-Page-0154.pdf#search=%22california%20dreaming%20soundtrack%22

External links [edit source]

- *California Dreaming* at IMDb

V · T · E **Films directed by John D. Hancock** [hide]

Let's Scare Jessica to Death (1971) · *Bang the Drum Slowly* (1973) · *Baby Blue Marine* (1976) · ***California Dreaming*** (1979) · *Weeds* (1987) · *Steal the Sky* (1988) · *Prancer* (1989) · *A Piece of Eden* (2000) · *Suspended Animation* (2001)

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